Background Statement EDU 402

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What were the expectations of the educational systems for the students?

When I was in school, I don’t completely remember the expectations for each student but do remember some specific accounts that were influences. I remember when the no child left behind hit my schools. I was very young only in second grade, but I was by no means stupid. My teachers I felt taught normally in all the classes and when you needed extra help you would come in after school or get help during “extra” time but there were no slowing things down in the regular classroom for you. Once I hit 3rd, 4th grade and especially middle school I could see the no child left behind in action where everything was slowed down and I then became bored. I think this changed a lot of ways teachers taught and honestly didn’t allow some kids to thrive. I definitely believe in most of this, but also do not like taking away from the children who can go so far beyond the norm. The expectations I believe were always college, because it was mentioned but we never really figured out about college until high school, which I think should be introduced at a much younger age to set the expectations of what they want.

I remember my parents holding the highest expectations for me because

neither one of my parents went to college, my father started his own business and my mother worked as a pharmacy tech. They only wanted the best for me, so they expected me to go to college and to do better than they did. Things were not always easy for them, and they never wanted me to have to go through that when I was older. They helped me attain good grades by helping me with homework, or finding me help if they couldn’t, always talking with my teacher, and holding high expectations for me from the day I entered pre-school all the way to the day I graduated. Now you also can not get very far without a degree, because it seems like everything you do, you need a degree for it so that was another huge contributor in them pushing me.

Business and the business world also have a huge influence on how schools an education look. When I was young, college was just starting to get big, but once 2000 came and went, and everyone figured out they were not dying, this is when technology and education really came into play. I feel as though my generation has really been the guinea pigs for this push of technology and college education. There will always be some who choose not to go or who cannot afford it, but for the most part this has to be the most kids that have gotten a college education since any year before it. The money that the government and business people are making is astronomical and cannot be compared to any other boom in industry, therefore this will continue to rise, and be the norm for a while.

My expectation was always to work hard and get good grades and go to college, although school was never my favorite. But I always expected myself to be on the honor roll. For my classes you didn’t get a choice until high school but when I did have a choice I set myself up for what I wanted to do in college, I took 7 sciences, 5 math’s, and all the physical education classes I desired. I did this knowing I wanted to be in some sort of health field when I went to school. Of all these classes I didn’t take AP, but I always took the advanced to help me out when I went to college.

There were certain strategies that teachers used in school to help me.

The ones that I learned from the most are the ones that used different techniques other than sitting in a classroom. In elementary school I can remember going outside for science and doing hands on things in math when adding and subtracting. In middle school I do not remember a lot of these techniques. In high school teachers were constantly allowing for creativity and allowing you to do things to your learning style especially in English, and science.

There were some very specific things that caught my attention when learning, and that was when learning was happening without even realizing it. I did not particularly care for school, but do like to learn things I am interested in, so when things can be related to me, or I’m learning without even realizing it when I am taking in the most, as well as enjoying myself. A specific example of this was when I hated physics and couldn’t really do it. My teacher told me to relate everything to sports. So once I figured out that I could do better in my javelin throwing by applying physics, I automatically started liking it. The difference in this learning was that the teacher got to know who I was, and took my strengths and related them to school topics.

The school I came from did not have a very diverse student body. It was a very small school where everyone knew everything about you and your family. There was really NO diversity what so ever in my town, in the whole district we probably had 2 or 3 African Americans, and besides exchange students coming in there was no other racial differences, there were also not a huge spread in the socioeconomic levels. There were definitely some people in poverty and the highest class level was probably a mid-level middle class, so there was not a huge range in this either, and no matter the socioeconomic level, it did not really stop kids from hanging out or degrading one another. I mean I’m not obvious it probably happened, but I don’t remember seeing a lot of it.

All my classes were structured differently, some gave out syllabus and you had responsibility to follow it, others would put the unit on the board, and then the assignments for the day. Others wouldn’t tell you. I find that I like a mixture of all of these. I like to see ahead on a syllabus, I also like to see what is in store for the day, so doing this can help all students.

Some class I took in high school were several sciences and math, which was more then required as well as many PE & Health classes. I think I got a pretty good education because my teachers really cared but I would of liked to see more of a cohesion between all the schools, and more responsibility on the students when in high school to be prepared to go college and actually be ready for it. That is the ultimate goal which I do not think any school really prepares you for.

I think that my school has provided me with a lot of useful life skills, one of which that I am very good at taking negatives in my life and turn them around into positives by figuring out the best way to fix them. I think all the good and bad experiences I have had during my school experience I can make into the best for the students, and get them to the level they need to be at to move on.

I selected teaching, because I believe that I am very good connecting with people, and after all the teachers I had that just lectured at me and made me hate school, I want to find a way to change that. I could have been a very good student but because I had teachers that would put me down and never teach to my learning style I hated it. I want to be the teacher that everyone wants to go to, to help with work, to talk to and expect to have fun in class. I may not be able to change everyone’s attitude about school but I am going to try.

The teachers that really captured me, and made actually interested in school, were the teachers who first of all cared about you. Teachers that would try and connect with you and ask you how your game went, or about your afterschool activities really started to get my attention. This will be the first thing that I will do in my class. By using an MI quiz/ personality quiz I can get to know my students and what they are all about, this will help me connect. Another trait a teacher can have, is being flexible. Many times when I was at my game until 1130 at night it was hard to get my homework done, I really respected and appreciated a teacher that would talk to me and give me an extension because they know that life happens. I know that things can have structures but that they do not need to be set in stone, otherwise kids will lose respect, because the teacher does not give them any.

I’ve had so many bad experiences with teachers and I hope to get every kid to enjoy being at school and doing something. I want every kid to graduate and do what they want and be happy with their choices. I want students to trust me and to come with me for help. I want to be that person there for them throughout their life and to make sure they achieve.

When I teach I hope to gain every kids respect for not only me but for the school, community, and the subject. School can be so much more than just a 6 hour “detention center”. I believe that every kid can find a way to be involved somehow and learn to love what they are doing. It is my job to find that way, and help every teacher do this, to create the best school atmosphere possible. I also want to find new ways to teach health and physical education that is not just learning about sports and diseases, but is tailored to each kid’s own life, and that they can take this with them and use it when they are older. It takes a small step like this to help the different epidemics in America and I am bound to try to help it.

The biggest concern I have before starting to teach to making sure I am ready with my lesson plans for each unit. As well as having my standards. I do not really feel confident with standards yet and would like to work more with this in my own teaching content.